

Train Mountain Railroad  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 12, 2015

**Meeting called to order** at 7:30PM and put shortly on hold until all were present at the table. Held at TMRR Hall of Flags.

Present: Jerry Crane, Tom Watson, Carol La Berge, Jeff Mills, Jeff Pape (by conference call) and Jim Armstrong (by conference call).

Chuck Barnes, Secretary, was away on vacation and was unable to attend. Joyce Merwin took meeting notes in Chuck Barnes place.

About 20 Train Mountain Railroad members were also present including Rodger Rude, Pam Williams, Russ Wood, Les Dent, Dennis Ward and others.

**Election Results:** Tom Watson read the written election results as given to him earlier on Saturday, September 12, 2015 by Joyce Merwin, Office Administrator. (The written election results are attached).

**Seat New Board Members:**

- i. Chuck Barnes and Tom Watson have been re-elected to the Board and 5 new members have been elected onto the board. Jerry Crane and Jim Armstrong's terms were and are still in effect and so not part of this year's election.
- ii. Tom Watson explained that prior board meetings took up to four hours and why we changed from Robert's Rules to Governance for meeting agenda. Tom Watson also explained: While Robert's Rules are followed in other instances here, we do not follow "New Business" and "Old Business". In "governance", the most urgent item is number 1 on the list and the rest are taken down in urgency to the least urgent as the last item on the list. No non-board discussions take place at board meetings. Most board decisions are made by e-mail. If it cannot be done by e-mail, it is taken up at a BOD meeting.

In the past, it was several last minute arguments with last minute “Oh, we’ve got to pass that today.” Instead, we like to research topics (have those presenting them research them) in advance and *then* present it to the board. We are a working board with everyone taking an area of responsibility.

### **Proposed Bylaw Changes:**

Change from 1 year term to 2 year term for the length of time an officer serves.

Tom turned the meeting over to Jerry Crane. Proposed change is for to 2 years except for Treasurer which is already a long time. The Officers term is what is being extended. The Directors term is (already) 3 years.

Jerry Crane made a motion to change the Officers’ terms to 2 years. Jim Armstrong seconded. 4 Ayes, No Nays. Motion passed.

### **Board**

Jerry Crane takes nominations for President: Jim Armstrong nominates Tom Watson for office of President. Carol La Berge seconds the motion. 4 Ayes, No Nays. Tom Watson as President is passed. Meeting returned to Tom Watson.

Jerry Crane nominates Chuck Barnes as Secretary. Jim Armstrong seconds. No other nominations. Jerry Crane, Jeff Mills, Jeff Pape and Jim Armstrong seconded the motion. Chuck Barnes as Secretary passed.

Carol La Berge was asked to consider the Treasurer position by Tom Watson. Jerry Crane explains that the new Treasurer won’t have to do day-to-day functions because Joyce Merwin does those. The new Treasurer will be an overseer and signatory, look over the books, etc. Carol La Berge suggested Jeff Mills, but Jeff said “No.” After conferring shortly with Rodger Rude, Carol La Berge agreed (to be a nominee). Tom Watson

nominated Carol La Berge. Jerry Crane seconded. 5 Ayes, No Nays. Carol La Berge as Treasurer passed.

Jerry Crane announced Jeff Mills, Fire Safety Position and Jeff Pape, Forest Management position.

### **Train Meets, Setting Rates For**

#### **Individual Meets**

Per Tom Watson, meet fees need to be reviewed. Meet fees should stay the same for pre-registration. At the meet, we should charge an additional \$15 (late fee) for the first person, but for the rest of the registrants it should remain the same.

After much discussion including Tom Watson, Jerry Crane, Jeff Mills and others, Tom Watson makes a motion to pass the \$15 late fee for 3 days before the start of the work week and Jeff Mills proposes that after 3 days prior to the work week the \$15 late fee be in effect and that all other rates stay the same. Motion made, Carol La Berge seconded, 6 Ayes, No Nays. Motion passed.

#### **All Meets**

Tom Watson proposes we leave All Meets fees the same because most with All Meets passes are locals who volunteer their time. Jeff Mills makes a motion to continue with the same rates for All Meets for this year and to review this again next year for (potential) increase. Carol La Berge seconds the motion. 6 Ayes, No Nays. Motion passed.

### **Status Report**

Jerry Crane had given a full verbal report to members attending the Big Build Banquet just minutes before this BOD meeting. All attending the BOD meeting (except possibly the two on conference call), had heard this report at the banquet. The report was not repeated by Jerry at the BOD meeting.

## **Day-to-Day operation items**

Tom Watson commented that we need docents to give train rides; office volunteers, ask Joyce about; TM Gazette needs a local person to do the Gazette. If Tom Watson has to keep doing the Gazette, to please send him articles by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Jeff Mills stated he feels docents are critical to our survival to stop and talk with people with badges (tourists/visitors) and leave them with a good impression. We need one or two more people like Frank Bartholomew to come and be docents.

Pam Williams: "Can there be an article in our Gazette?" Tom Watson asked if she would like to write one. She later said she could write one on how she "fell into Train Mountain" and Dennis Ward commented on an article he did about why he became a member.

## **Last Minute Items**

Les Dent asked if President and Treasurer (elections) are in odd or even numbered years and was answered with odd numbered years. Some discussion ensued between Les Dent and Tom Watson about discussing things openly (in reference to elections and other matters).

Rodger Rude mentioned that volunteer hours are important to Train Mountain and that it is important for volunteers to keep track of them and turn them in. Tom Watson agreed and commented on the importance in regard to grant writing and obtaining grants. Rodger asked if we could put an article in the Gazette about volunteer hours and include a form. Pam Williams suggested making the form interactive--electronically fill-in-able. Mention was made of Dale Furseth (possibly in relation to the project Dale is working on for volunteers to be able to sign-up for projects and to be able to report their hours on our website). Joyce Merwin will write the article.

Before adjourning, Jeff Pape questioned when the deadline for the Gazette is and Tom Watson gave him the 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **Adjourn**

Jerry Crane moved the meeting be adjourned. Carol La Berge and Jeff Mills seconded the motion. 6 Ayes, No Nays. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.  
8:12PM